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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Austria/Italy

DATE DISTR. 16 September 1948

SUBJECT Miscellaneous Zisteredorf Information

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED 25X1A6a

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DATE OF INFO

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. Source learned from two different informants employed by the Soviet Oil Administration that just before the Italian elections, eleven trains carrying a total of about 5,000 tons of crude oil were sent to Italy. One informant states further that in the week of 4-11 July, two additional trainloads of crude oil, amounting together to 1,000 tons, were shipped to Italy. ~~Comment:~~ Another (fairly reliable source in a position to be informed on this subject remarks that the Aquila refinery in Trieste is a completely Communist concern, and that it is consequently possible that the Soviets were and are supplying this refinery with crude oil.)

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2. Increased building activity is noticeable at the Huehlberg field. Beside construction of a new administration building and new workers' housing, several new roads are being prepared and old ones rebuilt.

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3. ~~Kuznetsov~~, formerly Soviet director of the Huehlberg field, has been replaced by Mikhail Gladkov, who has recently come from the USSR. Drilling at Huehlberg is under the immediate supervision of Tarasenko, who is at present supervising the drilling of eight new wells within the confines of this field.

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4. Oil field workers are talking about great unrest among the Austrian population living near the Czechoslovak border. This unrest allegedly stems from the appearance of concentrations of Czechoslovak troops and extensive and improvement of the border fortifications. Source states that it has not been possible to substantiate these rumors.

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5. According to statements of personnel of the WIFO central tank and storage area in Lobau, now employed at Neusiedl and Hauskirchen, the pipe line from Lobau to Czechoslovakia is indeed functioning, following repair of the pumping and storage facilities. The line is said to run from Lobau through Gaweinstal to the Czechoslovak border. ~~Comment:~~ An independent reliable source does not accept reports that this pipe line is operating. This source cites

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Auth: DDA R.G. 77/2785
Date: 12/5/78 BY: 009

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the following reasons for doubt: The high paraffin content of the Zistersdorf crude oil, which could not be pumped over a line of this length without heavy pumping installations on which no reports have been received; the pipe left behind by the Germans was of light construction, not suitable for carrying crude oil or the heavier refined products.

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6. When asked to verify a report that the Okeros Mineralwachswerk und Ozokeritrefinerie GmbH in Stockerau, Lower Austria, is being dismantled and transferred to Neusiedl, source stated that, according to his own observations, the Okeros plant is functioning normally and still receiving paraffin regularly from Zistersdorf companies. Neither at the plant nor at Neusiedl is anything known of a projected move to transfer the plant to the Neusiedl area. In any case, no such action has yet begun. (Comment: The source who reported dismantling at Okeros, claims to have obtained his information from [redacted] of the Central Purchasing Office of the Soviet Oil Administration; he still insists that this transfer is taking place, and that paraffin deliveries to Okeros have stopped completely. In view of the fact that minor Soviet employees or officers have often been guilty of fictitious reports, apparently in an attempt to impress their subordinates, the report of the transfer of this company is regarded as questionable.)

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7. First Lieutenant Rattner, cultural adviser for all Zistersdorf oil companies, is currently conducting a campaign for more subscribers to the Soviet army newspaper, Osterrussische Zeitung. In his campaign, he cites the "impossible" conditions at ITAG, where, out of 300 workers and employees, only 12 subscribe to the paper. He has pointed out repeatedly that the occupation power has no intention of exercising force in this subscription campaign, but that every man employed in the Zistersdorf oil fields should nevertheless take out a subscription for the paper.

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8. Director Klapchuk, of DEA I (Ost), on 3 August 1948, ordered the immediate discharge of 111 laborers and 27 office workers. This will bring the staff of DEA I (Ost) down to 500 laborers and 80 office employees. Persons discharged are not to include either Communist Party members or Communist sympathizers.

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